



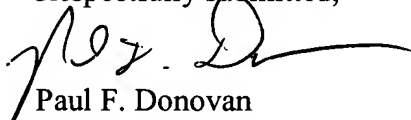
REMARKS:

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 26, 2004 in which claims 1-9, 12-15 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 USC 112. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims based on the amendments made to the claims.

Claims 1, 12 and 18 have been amended in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Office Action. It is submitted that claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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